

US EPA Region 9's
Action Plan to Reduce Community Lead Exposure
[includes edits from DTSC]

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Lead exposure remains a significant public health concern for children because lead hazards in the environment persist. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no known safe level of lead in blood. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. And effects of lead exposure cannot be corrected. Lead exposure and its consequences disproportionately affect minority and low-income families and communities. Some factors that can contribute to this disproportionate burden include living in older housing with lead-based paint and other lead hazards, income level, and proximity to legacy lead sources such as soil near roadways and former industrial sites.

Safe Drinking Water

1. We will continue to conduct lead and copper rule training for states and water systems. As part of our updated Small System Action Plan, we will work with our states to ensure water system compliance with all drinking water standards, including compliance with lead and copper rule requirements.
2. We will sample drinking water at 133 tribal school facilities, with the support of the R9 laboratory and funds from the R9 Children's Health Program. If sampling identifies elevated lead levels (>15 ppb), we will work with the school/tribe to reduce lead levels and minimize exposure.
3. We will work with Arizona and California on a plan to address state implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule, which included file reviews of 34 water systems with repeat exceedances of the lead action level.

Clean Air

1. EPA will propose action on Arizona's air quality plan to meet the National Ambient Air Quality lead standard under the Clean Air Act. A consent decree between EPA and ASARCO (Hayden, Ariz.) requires controls by December 2018.
2. We will review lead monitoring data from five airports in Region 9. We use these data to compare against our health-based standard, to determine whether lead emissions from aircraft are likely to affect public health.

Lead-Based Paint in Homes and Residences

1. Training and Outreach - We will accredit 50 training providers who provide training on Lead Safe Work Practices to contractors and other professionals. We will audit 15-20 training providers to ensure the courses are taught according to EPA requirements and certification exams are properly administered.
2. We will conduct 8 free Lead-Based Training workshops including in Spanish, for low income individuals. If funding is made available, we will offer workshops in Sacramento, Calif., and in Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz.
3. We will reach more 100 organizations with outreach material and technical assistance to state, local and private health services organizations to develop local and tribal capacity to train

residents on lead hazards, conduct blood lead screenings, and provide treatment information for lead-poisoned children.

4. Technical Assistance and Grants to States - We will award \$500,000 in annual grants to California and Hawaii to support lead-based paint abatement programs.
5. We will reach young families with basic lead poisoning prevention information including in English and Spanish through mailings to the 732 public libraries in California, 87 public libraries in Nevada, 141 public libraries in Arizona and 50 public libraries in Hawaii.

Enforcement of the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP Rule)

1. We will conduct 70 inspections under the Lead RRP Rules and take enforcement actions to address noncompliance.
2. Rg's enforcement programs, including our lead-based paint program, will continue to participate in CalEPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) Enforcement Task Force to focus the compliance and enforcement authorities (of state and local agencies and EPA) in communities with EJ concerns. We will focus on the Imperial Valley, Stockton and other locations selected by CalEPA.

Lead in Soil

1. Eureka Smelter (Nev.) – EPA plans to complete the residential soil cleanup of approximately 35 residential properties affected by the Eureka Smelter, where sampling data show some of the highest levels of lead concentrations in soils found in Rg.
2. EPA will work with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to evaluate lead-acid battery recycling facilities in California. DTSC's program for addressing contamination from lead-acid battery recycling facilities is based on California state law and will focus on 39 former lead smelter sites identified from a comprehensive review of site investigation and cleanup records maintained by EPA and DTSC. To support development of criteria for prioritization, DTSC and EPA Region 9 are conducting a pilot study in West Oakland to understand the distribution of lead and other heavy metals in soil. EPA and DTSC will review the results from the soil study and will coordinate on next steps. Community engagement is ongoing.
3. Cleanup of Exide (Vernon, Calif.) - - Rg will continue to coordinate with DTSC regarding the DTSC-led former Exide facility closure and corrective action. For the cleanup of sensitive land use properties in communities surrounding the former facility (Preliminary Investigation Area), EPA will provide technical support as needed.

Brownfields

1. Rg will offer technical assistance through the Targeted Brownfields Assessment program, and will prioritize requests focused on lead contamination, where EPA can test soil and buildings for the presence of lead and provide recommendations for cleanup.
2. EPA will administer Brownfields competitive grants to support communities in addressing soil contaminants (including lead) community outreach, soil sampling and cleanup/removal of contaminated soil. Examples include
 - The City of Richmond, Calif. received a \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment grant focused primarily on determining the presence of lead in abandoned and foreclosed homes. The

City will work with the nonprofit Richmond Community Foundation to abate lead and other contaminants, renovate the homes and make them available for first-time homebuyers.

- The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department received a \$76,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to remove lead from the Shipwrights Cottage and environs, part of a larger cleanup effort in what will become a public park and open space.
3. EPA will administer grants awarded under the Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program to train and certify adults in environmental management, including lead abatement, preparing them for jobs in soil cleanup. EPA will award the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and Hunters Point Family \$200,000 each to conduct environmental training for unemployed and underemployed adults. By 2020, 108 students will be trained and state-certified in lead abatement.

Children's Health Program

1. We will reach 700 parents, school and childcare staff, community health workers and health professionals through training and outreach activities focused on protecting children from lead and other environmental hazards.
2. We will work with school districts in Northern California, Southern Nevada and Arizona to address environmental health challenges encountered during school renovations including lead-based paint and lead in drinking water hazards. With State and local partners, EPA will conduct 3 workshops in Ariz. in FY18 and depending on resources, may do more in FY19. Workshops will focus on disseminating best practices, compliance assistance, and developing strong peer-to-peer networks to address environmental health issues in schools.